

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 00702 240835Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 NSC-05 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SSO-00
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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PPDC, IR
SUBJ: EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES ON PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION

1. LOCAL PRESS HAS GIVEN FRONT PAGE TREATMENT TO EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES BETWEEN SHAH AND PRESIDENT FORD AND SHAH'S MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT CARTER. FOLLOWING ARE TEXTS OF SHAH'S REPLY TO PRESIDENT FORD AND SHAH'S MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT CARTER.

2. "DEAR PRESIDENT FORD,

IT GAVE ME GREAT PLEASURE TO RECEIVE YOUR KIND MESSAGE OF JANUARY 20, 1977, WHICH YOU HAVE ADDRESSED TO ME AS YOU ARE RELINQUISHING THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

I AM DEEPLY TOUCHED BY THE CORDIAL REMARKS WHICH YOU HAVE MADE WITH REGARD TO MYSELF AND THE TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN IRAN AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WHICH HAS WITHSTOOD THE TEST OF TIME, AND THE WARM COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES IN OUR QUEST TO MAINTAIN WORLD PEACE AND SECURITY AND TO ACHIEVE HUMAN BETTERMENT.

I FIND DEEP SATISFACTION IN THE UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP THAT HAS EVOLVED BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES OVER THE
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YEARS AND THE WIDE COMMUNITY OF INTERESTS WHICH WE SHARE, BASED AS THEY ARE ON A SPIRIT OF MUTUAL GOODWILL, CONFIDENCE AND RESPECT. OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP SERVES AS AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF COMPREHENSION AND HARMONIOUS COOPERATION BETWEEN NATIONS MOTIVATED BY A SINCERE DESIRE TO CONTRIBUTE TO A BETTER FUTURE FOR MANKIND. IN THIS REGARD, I WISH TO EXPRESS MY DEEP APPRECIATION

TO YOU FOR YOUR PERSONAL ABIDING INTEREST AND FRIENDLY UNDERSTANDING WHICH YOU HAVE ALWAYS SHOWN TOWARDS MY COUNTRY. I FULLY SHARE YOUR CONFIDENCE THAT THE STRONG BONDS AND THE MANY-SIDED COOPERATION LINKING US TOGETHER WHICH REST ON SUCH SOLID FOUNDATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO BE CONSOLIDATED FURTHER IN THE YEARS AHEAD, TO THE COMMON BENEFIT OF OUR TWO PEOPLES.

THE EMPRESS AND I HAVE KEPT VIVID RECOLLECTIONS OF OUR MEETINGS WITH YOU AND MRS. FORD AND OF THE WARM HOSPITALITY WHICH YOU EXTENDED TO US DURING OUR VISIT TO WASHINGTON. I ALSO LOOK BACK WITH MUCH PLEASURE TO THE OPPORTUNITIES I HAD OF EXCHANGING THOUGHTS AND IDEAS WITH YOU ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND IMPORTANCE. WE JOIN IN CONVEYING TO YOU BOTH OUR SINCERE BEST WISHES FOR YOUR HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS IN THE FUTURE TOGETHER WITH OUR CORDIAL GREETINGS AND REGARDS.

SINCERELY,
MOHAMMAD REZA PAHLAVI"

3. "THE HONOURABLE JIMMY CARTER

ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR INAUGURATION AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, I TAKE GREAT PLEASURE IN CONVEYING TO YOU MY WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS AND THOSE OF THE IRANIAN PEOPLE.

I SINCERELY WISH YOU EVERY SUCCESS, MR. PRESIDENT, IN DISCHARGING THE HIGH RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH HAVE DEVOLVED UPON YOU AS YOU ASSUME THE REINS OF GOVERNMENT. IT IS INDEED A SOURCE OF CONSIDERABLE GRATIFICATION TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ME TO OBSERVE THE VERY CLOSE FRIENDSHIP AND FRUITFUL COOPERATION BETWEEN IRAN AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. I WISH TO STRESS ONCE AGAIN MY FIRM DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND TO COLLABORATE CLOSELY WITH YOU IN THE REALISATION OF THE GOALS OF PEACE AND PROGRESS WHICH HAVE BEEN THE OBJECTIVES OF OUR POLICY. I SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WISH THE NOBLE AMERICAN PEOPLE INCREASING HAPPINESS AND PROSPERITY UNDER YOUR HIGH LEADERSHIP.

WITH CORDIAL GREETINGS AND REGARDS,
MOHAMMAD REZA PAHLAVI"

4. WE UNDERSTAND FROM MFA SOURCE THAT THESE MESSAGES HAVE BEEN SENT BY TELEGRAM THROUGH GOI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON FOR DELIVERY. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S KEEPING US INFORMED OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S RESPONSE TO THE SHAH. IN THIS CONNECTION, SEE TEHRAN MESSAGES 0603 AND 703. MIKLOS

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